

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00475 031439Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
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/109 W

-----007913 031759Z /72

R 031415Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6380
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
EC COLLECTIVE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUXEMBOURG 0475

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR UR LU
SUBJECT: CIVAIR - LUXEMBOURG AIRLINE DENIES UTILITY OF USSR
TRANSIT RIGHTS

REF: LUXEMBOURG 0466

1. SUBSEQUENT TO REFTTEL, ECON OFFICER HAD DISCUSSION WITH
EINAR OLAFSSON, DIRECTOR OF CARGOLUX, REGARDING THE RECENT
MEMORANDUM EXPANDING USSR-LUXEMBOURG COOPERATION IN CIVIL
AVIATION. THE GOL'S OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE ON THE MEMORAN-
DUM CITED AS THE PRINCIPAL ADVANTAGE TO LUXEMBOURG TRANSIT
RIGHTS THROUGH THE USSR AVAILABLE TO CARGOLUX. THE ALL-
FREIGHT AIRLINE TAKES SHARP EXCEPTION TO THIS VIEW. OLAFSSON
STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE GOL FOR ITS DECISION TO EXPAND CIVIL
AVIATION TIES WITH THE USSR AS BLIND DEDICATION TO
AN "OPEN SKY" POLICY, ALLOWING ANYONE TO LAND HERE EVEN
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WITHOUT RECIPROCAL BENEFITS.

2. CARGOLUX FLIES TO THE FAR EAST VIA THE MIDDLE EAST,
PARTICULARLY THE GULF, AND SO THE PRIVILEGE OF A TECHNICAL
STOP IN TASHKENT IS OF NO USE IN ITS OPERATIONS. WORSE
YET IN CARGOLUX'S VIEW, IS THE DIVERSION OF FREIGHT FROM
ITS SERVICES TO AEROFLOT. OLAFSSON MAINTAINS THAT THE

BULK OF FREIGHT CARRIED BY AEROFLOT FROM OR THROUGH HERE IS DESTINED FOR THE FAR EAST AND IS TRANSFERRED IN MOSCOW TO AEROFLOT FLIGHTS TO TOKYO. HE ALLUDED TO WELL-KNOWN PRICE-CUTTING TECHNIQUES BY AEROFLOT TO OBTAIN CARGO AND EXPECTS MORE SIGNIFICANT DIVERSION OF AIR FREIGHT IN THE FUTURE. FOR ITS LUXEMBOURG SERVICE, AEROLFOT NOW FLIES 4 ENGINE TURBO-PROP ANTONOV 24'S WITH 10-11 TON FREIGHT CAPACITY BUT IS EXPECTED TO SHIFT TO ILYUSHIN 76S WITH 40 TON CARGO CAPACITY.

3. NOTE: CARGOLUX IS A FAST GROWING PRIVATE COMPANY, A JOINT VENTURE OF LOFTLEIDER ICELANDIC AIRLINES, SALEN SHIPPING CO. STOCKHOLM AND LUXAIR. THE LATTER IS 25 PERCENT GOL-OWNED AND SO INDIRECTLY THE GOVERNMENT IS A SHAREHOLDER, ALBEIT MINORITY IN CARGOLUX. THE DIRECTOR OF LUXAIR IS, HOWEVER, PRESIDENT OF THE CARGOLUX BOARD OF DIRECTORS. LOWENSTEIN

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